

**Ecumenical Centre Morning Prayer
Monday, 14 September 2020**

WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL
2020 Theme: Creative Solidarity in Common Fragility

*This week in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we are praying with the people
and churches of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay*

Prayer, ‘Lord, we want peace’ – by children in Bethlehem

Word of welcome – Rev. Dr Mikie Roberts, WCC programme executive for Spiritual Life and Faith and Order

Introductory greeting - WCC Interim General Secretary Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca

Prayer – Bishop Hossam Naoum, Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

God of all creation,
your love is infinite and embraces all people and all of creation.
We cannot fully comprehend the height, depth or width of your divine love.
Though it is beyond measure,
we give thanks that your love has captured our hearts enabling us to love all,
especially those with whom we disagree and who see us as their enemies.
Inspired by your love,
may we seek to be in solidarity with each other, sharing in a common humanity.
Possessed by your love,
may our hearts be opened and our fists unclenched;
lead us by the Holy Spirit to reach out across the barriers that divide us as neighbours.
Triune God, give to your people creative solidarity in common fragility. **Amen**

(WWPPI Resource)

♪ **SONG – Psalm 42**

By Rev. Ashraf Tanous, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

Responsive Psalm 122

*Read by WCC deputy general secretary Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, and Rev. Dr Owe Boersma,
International Coordinator of the WCC Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and
Israel*

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

**To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”

For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end, Amen.

Scripture Reading: Mark 2: 1 – 12

- The Very Reverend Emmanual Awwad, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem

1 ثُمَّ دَخَلَ كَفَرْنَا حَوْمَ أَيْضًا بَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ، فَسَمِعَ أَنَّهُ فِي بَيْتٍ.
2 وَلِلْوَقْتِ اجْتَمَعَ كَثِيرُونَ حَتَّى لَمْ يَعْذِ يَسْعَ وَلَا مَا حَوْلَ الْبَابِ. فَكَانَ يُخَاطِبُهُمْ بِالْكَلِمَةِ.
3 وَجَاءُوا إِلَيْهِ مُقَدِّمِينَ مَفْلُوجًا يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةٌ.
4 وَإِذْ لَمْ يَقْدِرُوا أَنْ يَقْتَرِبُوا إِلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْلِ الْجَمْعِ، كَشَفُّوا السَّقْفَ حَيْثُ كَانَ. وَبَعْدَ مَا نَقَبُوهُ دَلُّوا السَّرِيرَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمَفْلُوجُ مُضْطَجِعًا عَلَيْهِ.
5 فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيْمَانَهُمْ، قَالَ لِلْمَفْلُوجِ: «يَا بَنِيَّ، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ.»
6 وَكَانَ قَوْمٌ مِنَ الْكُتَّابِ هُنَاكَ جَالِسِينَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ:
7 «لِمَاذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَذَا هَكَذَا بِتَجَادِيفٍ؟ مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ خَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟»
8 فَلِلْوَقْتِ شَعَرَ يَسُوعُ بِرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ، فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِمَاذَا تَفَكَّرُونَ بِهِذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟
9 أَيْمًا أَيْسَرُ، أَنْ يُقَالَ لِلْمَفْلُوجِ: مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ، أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ: قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَامْشِ؟
10 وَلَكِنْ لِكَيْ تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ لِابْنِ الْإِنْسَانِ سُلْطَانًا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا.» قَالَ لِلْمَفْلُوجِ:
« 11 إِنَّكَ أَقُولُ: قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ سَرِيرَكَ وَاهْبِ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ.»
12 فَقَامَ لِلْوَقْتِ وَحَمَلَ السَّرِيرَ وَخَرَجَ قُدَّامَ الْكُلِّ، حَتَّى بُهِتَ الْجَمِيعُ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: «مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا قَطُّ!».

¹ When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. ² So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. ³ Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” ⁶ Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, ⁷ “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ⁸ At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk?’ ¹⁰ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— ¹¹ “I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.” ¹² And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Rev. Dr Munther Isaac

Pastor, Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church, Bethlehem

Prayers of Intercession

Read together by WCC staff and intergenerational group from the Arab Educational Institute in Bethlehem. Includes moments of silent reflection.

Lord save us we all perish (Mt 8: 25)

Lord why have you abandoned us to ourselves?
Remember you have created us in your image and likeness.
Restore your image in all of us.

Grant us the awareness that we all are your children, brothers and sisters,
You are our Creator and Father.
We believe that you love us all.
Lord do not look on our sins, but on your love for all of us
You loved us so much, you gave your life to redeem us.

--- silence ---

Lord we have forgotten who we are,
We have forgotten that we are your image,
We have forgotten that we are your children
We have forgotten that you created us to love each other

--- silence ---

We have forgotten that you are a God of love
We have made of you a God of war
Therefor we made wars, we are still in war in your land,
Your land is desecrated, it became a land of hatred, killing, oppression of the poor and the weak,

The strong made themselves gods and are governing your land according to rules of death,
hatred, discrimination, tortures in prisons.
Lord look at your children in political prisons, under torture,
and at their jail guardians. They all are your children.

---- silence ---

Lord in Jerusalem you loved so much humans, that you gave your life for us all,
for the Resurrection of all, and the triumph of all on death and wars...
Lord so many countries saw the glory of Resurrection
But in your holy city, the place of your death and Resurrection, your holy city is still
waiting its Redemption.

Lord have mercy on us all, save us from the evil in ourselves
Save the strong who make themselves gods and oppress your children, their brothers and sisters.
Remind them that they too are in your image,
Remind them that you did not create them for death but for love,
As you are love.
Save the weak and the poor, your children. Give them the power to love, and to find in it freedom
and full abundant life.

--- silence ---

Lord re-create us all again in your image and likeness

Grant us to be strong as you are, and to love as you love.
And to be all free and sovereign in our land, brothers and sisters, because we all are your children.

Purify again your land. O Lord.
Make it a dwelling for you and for all your children.
Amen.

(Michel Sabbah, Patriarch Emeritus, Jerusalem)

Prayer - Nora Carmi, civil society worker on justice and peace issues

The Lord's Prayer - Sung by Armenian priests in the Holy Sepulchre Church

Benediction – Bishop Hossam Naoum, Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

Concluding remarks – Rev. Dr Mikie Roberts, WCC programme executive for Spiritual Life and Faith and Order